NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
NEWS ANALYSIS NO. 1-0772 MAY 13, 1976
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MOSCOW AND WEST EUROPE'S COMMUNIST PARTIES

ANNCR:

THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP HAS MADE MAJOR CONCESSIONS TO WIN THE APPROVAL OF WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES FOR THE LONG-SOUGHT ALL-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE. BUT, AS VOA NEWS ANALYST JOHN ALBERT POINTS OUT, MOSCOW STILL TALKS ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE:

VOICE:

IT APPEARS THAT THE CONFERENCE OF 28 EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES WILL NOW BE HELD THIS SUMMER, AFTER THE ITALIAN ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO SPOKESMEN FOR THE PARTIES OF YUGOSLAVIA, ITALY AND FRANCE, AGREEMENT BECAME POSSIBLE AFTER 15 MONTHS OF WRANGLING WHEN THE SOVIETS DROPPED THEIR DEMAND THAT THE CONFERENCE DOCUMENT USE THE TERM "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM" AND ACCEPTED INSTEAD THE PHRASE "FRIENDLY COOPERATION AMONG THE PARTIES." ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCES, MOSCOW ALSO IS SUPPOSED TO BE READY TO AGREE THAT THE DOCUMENT APPEAL TO ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN ITALY AND FRANCE TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF THOSE COUNTRIES. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT MOSCOW NO LONGER OBJECTS TO THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTIES SEEKING A UNITED FRONT OF THE LEFT. IF ALL THIS SHOULD MATERIALIZE, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE WOULD BE FAR DIFFERENT FROM WHAT GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV HAD IN MIND WHEN HE PROPOSED THE MEETING FOR 1975. THE REPORTED COMPROMISE WOULD AVOID A SERIOUS SPLIT BETWEEN MOSCOW AND THE MAJOR COMMUNIST PARTIES IN WESTERN EUROPE. BUT

IT WOULD ALSO MEAN A SETBACK FOR SOVIET CLAIMS OF LEADERSHIP OF THE ENTIRE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.

BUT BEYOND THIS, A CLOSE STUDY OF OFFICIAL SOVIET COMMENTS SINCE THE MOSCOW PARTY CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY, RAISES SOME DOUBT ABOUT HOW SERIOUS THE CHANGE IN THE SOVIET ATTITUDE IS. THERE IS FIRST A PAMPHLET, PRINTED LAST NOVEMBER, BUT RELEASED IN MID-MARCH. IT IS SIGNED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICIAL VENJAMIN MIDTSEV, AND IT STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT OF DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT WHICH THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY HAS DROPPED FROM ITS PROGRAM. MR. MIDTSEV CALLS THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT "THE SUPREME FORM OF DEMOCRACY." THE LONDON "ECONOMIST" REPORTS THAT THIS LINE OF THINKING WAS ECHOED IN SPEECHES BY SEVERAL SOVIET LEADERS INCLUDING MIKHAIL SUSLOV, BORIS PONOMAREV AND YURI ANDROPOV. SEVERAL "PRAVDA" ARTICLES, THE LATEST ON APRIL 29TH, ALSO HAVE STRESSED BOTH PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM AND THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT.

BEFORE THE EAST BERLIN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE COMPROMISE ON THE EUROPEAN MEETING, THE ECONOMIST SPECULATED THAT THIS VERITABLE CAMPAIGN BY MOSCOW COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE A CLOSER FORMAL LINK BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE. MOSCOW, IT SAID, MAY WANT TO INSULATE THE EAST EUROPEANS FROM THE CONTAGIOUS INFLUENCE OF THE WESTERN COMMUNISTS. THE ECONOMIST SAID THE SOVIETS MIGHT EVEN TRY TO CREATE A NEW CENTER IN MOSCOW, SOMETHING LIKE THE PREWAR COMITERN OR THE POSTWAR COMINFORM. "THE RUSSIANS MIGHT HOPE TO USE THIS NEW CENTER," CONCLUDES THE ECONOMIST, "AS A MEANS OF PREVENTING COMMUNIST PARTIES IN WESTERN EUROPE AND THE THIRD WORLD FROM

COMING TOGETHER IN NON-ALIGNED GROUPINGS THEY COULD NOT CONTROL."

BE THIS AS IT MAY, THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS THAT WHATEVER COMPROMISES MOSCOW MAY BE WILLING TO MAKE REGARDING WEST EUROPEAN PARTIES, IT APPEARS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE, AS FAR AS EAST EUROPE IS CONCERNED. THE STRONGEST AFFIRMATION OF THIS DOCTRINE -- THE RIGHT OF MOSCOW TO INTERVENE WITH FORCE TO MAINTAIN COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE -- CAME IN AN ARTICLE BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE WARSAW PACT, THE LATE GENERAL SHTEMENKO, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE WARSAW PACT TREATY. THE ARTICLE SPECIFICALLY CITED THE SOVIET-LED INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968 AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE WARSAW PACT'S ROLE IN WHAT IT CALLED "COLLECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY AND AGGRESSIVE ACTION AGAINST SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."

WHATEVER MOSCOW MAY SAY TO THE WEST EUROPEAN PARTIES ABOUT ITS READINESS TO RESPECT NATIONAL COMMUNIST GOALS, AND WHATEVER MOSCOW SIGNED IN HELSINKI LAST YEAR PLEDGING RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF ALL NATIONS, THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP CLEARLY HAS NOT ABANDONED THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE.

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